

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 167324
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 PRS-01 H-02
SSM-05 SIG-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
PA-02 USIA-15 SP-02 PM-05 NSC-05 SS-15 /108 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:MKBERRY:DP
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
S/PRS - MR. CARTER (INFO)
H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW
NEA - MR. COLLUMS
NEA/ARN - MR. REUTHER
NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH

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P 182218Z JUL 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION SINAI
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 STATE 167324

USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USCINCEUR

UNCLAS STATE 167324

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A/

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - JULY 18

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE, FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR JULY 18, 1977:

Q. OVER THE WEEKEND A STORY SURFACED THAT SAUDI ARABIA HAS
DECIDED TO UNDERWRITE EGYPTIAN MILITARY PURCHASES, OSTEN-
SIBLY TAKING THE PLACE OF THE SOVIET UNION. CAN YOU TELL
ME WHAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT THINKS THIS SAUDI INVOLVE-
MENT IN FRONT-LINE ARMS DOES TO THE PROSPECTS FOR A SETTLE-
MENT, AND WHETHER IT CAUSES YOU TO RECONSIDER YOUR OPEN
PIPELINE TO SAUDI ARABIA?

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 STATE 167324

A. THE ONLY THING I CAN SAY TO YOU IN RESPONSE IS THAT WE
HAVE OBVIOUSLY NOTED WHAT WAS SAID, BUT DO NOT HAVE ANY
COMMENT.

Q. CAN'T YOU MAKE SOME JUDGMENT AS TO WHAT THIS DOES FOR
YOUR HAPPY PEACE PLAN FOR THE MIDDLE EAST?

A. OBVIOUSLY WE ARE FOLLOWING WHAT WAS SAID, BUT FROM
HERE I AM NOT ABLE TO GIVE YOU ANY JUDGMENTS ON THE
POSSIBLE IMPACT OF THIS, NO.

Q. THERE WAS A BIT OF NEWS THAT CONGRESSMEN, ABEY AND
HAMILTON, STOPPED FOR A CHAT WITH ARAFAT WHO SAID SOME
THINGS THAT I FIND KIND OF HARD AND AMBIGUOUS. ARE YOU
DEPENDING ON HAMILTON AND OBEY IN ANY WAY FOR YOUR INFOR-
MATION? OR HOW ARE YOU GETTING A LINE ON WHAT MR. ARAFAT
PROPOSES TO DO?

A. TO ANSWER, I THINK, THE FIRST PART OF YOUR QUESTION,
WE ARE NOT DEPENDING ON THE CONGRESSMEN FOR INFORMATION.
I WOULD NOT THAT I BELIEVE THE SECRETARY IS GOING TO SEE
THEM TO DISCUSS ALL OF THEIR OBSERVATIONS ON THEIR RECENT

TRIP, AND I THINK HE IS SEEING THEM THURSDAY OF THIS WEEK.

BEYOND THAT, I REALLY DON'T HAVE ANYTHING MORE I CAN TELL YOU.

Q. CAN WE ASSUME THAT IN SEEING THEM HE IS INTERESTED IN GETTING A REPORT FROM THEM ON THEIR CONVERSATION WITH ARAFAT?

A. I SAID THEY ARE GOING TO SHARE WITH HIM ALL OF THEIR OBSERVATIONS FROM THEIR TRIP TO THE MIDDLE EAST, AND I WOULD ASSUME THAT IS INCLUDED.

Q. THERE IS A REPORT TODAY OUT OF JERUSALEM SAYING THAT UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 167324

SECRETARY VANCE WOULD GO FIRST TO ARAB COUNTRIES AND THEN ISRAEL AFTERWARDS. CAN YOU CONFIRM THAT IT IS GOING TO BE ORGANIZED THAT WAY?

A. WE HAVE NOT ANNOUNCED ANY PLANS FOR THE TRIP AND I CANNOT CONFIRM ANY REPORTS THAT MAY BE COMING THROUGH ABOUT IT.

PRESIDENT SADAT TODAY SAID THAT EGYPTIAN JEWS WHO HAVE SETTLED IN ISRAEL WOULD BE WELCOME TO RETURN WITHOUT SECOND-CLASS CITIZENSHIP. ASSUMING THAT THAT ISN'T SIMPLY A CYNICAL STATEMENT, CAN YOU TELL US WHAT THAT DOES AND HOW THAT REFLECTS AS MODERATION THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT PERCEIVES?

A. AGAIN, WE HAVE SEEN THOSE VARIOUS STATEMENTS AND I DON'T HAVE ANY SPECIFIC SUBSTANTIVE COMMENT ON THOSE PARTICULAR OBSERVATIONS, BUT NATURALLY AND OBVIOUSLY WE WELCOME

ANY COMMENTS WHICH WILL CREATE AN ATMOSPHERE CONDUCIVE TO NEGOTIATIONS FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

Q. DO YOU THINK MASS IMMIGRATION FROM ISRAEL IS CONDUCIVE TO PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST?

A. WELL, I SAY I DON'T HAVE ANY SUBSTANTIVE COMMENT. I AM ONLY COMMENTING ON ANSWERING YOUR QUESTION ON PRESIDENT SADAT'S REMARKS.

Q. THERE IS ALSO A REPORT OUT TODAY QUOTING STATE DEPARTMENT SOURCES THAT MR. BEGIN PLANS TO URGE THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO DELAY HIS MIDDLE EAST TRIP UNTIL THE END OF AUGUST. HAVE YOU ANY COMMENT ON THAT?
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 167324

A. AGAIN, I DON'T HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THAT. WE HAVE NOT ANNOUNCED THE TRIP AND WE ARE JUST GOING TO HAVE TO, AS WE HAVE ALWAYS SAID, WAIT UNTIL MR. BEGIN'S VISIT HERE IS COMPLETE.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY STATEMENT ON MR. BEGIN'S TRIP?

A. NO.

Q. YOU WOULDN'T HAVE ANY COMMENT ON SADAT'S STATEMENT THAT HE IS READY TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT WITH ISRAEL?

A. NO, NOTHING MORE THAN WHAT I HAVE JUST SAID IN ANSWER TO BARRY'S QUESTIONS.

Q. BEGIN'S PROPOSALS ON WHAT ARE CALLED THE PEACE PLAN ARE DESCRIBED IN THE SAME SENTENCE ALWAYS AS BEING SECRET PROPOSALS. ARE THEY STILL UNKNOWN TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT?

A. THEY ARE UNKNOWN TO ME. WE HAVE ALWAYS SAID THAT WE ARE WAITING TO HEAR WHAT THE PRIME MINISTER SAYS WHEN HE COMES, AND I THINK THAT IS WHERE I HAVE TO LEAVE IT. WHETHER WE HAVE ANY INDICATIONS, I JUST DON'T KNOW, BUT WE ARE IN ANY CASE AWAITING HIS ARRIVAL HERE AND THE TALKS WE WILL HAVE WITH HIM.

Q. THERE WAS A REPORT IN THE POST THIS MORNING TO THE EFFECT THAT SECRETARY VANCE PUT SOME PRESSURE ON THE DCI TO REVISE ITS ESTIMATE AS TO THE ADVISABILITY OF SELLING AWACS TO IRAN. CAN YOU GIVE US ANY COMMENT ON THAT?

A. I CAN'T. THE ONLY THING I CAN SAY TO YOU, ON THE AWACS SUBJECT IS THAT OUR VIEWS ON THAT AND ALL OF THE POLICY CONSIDERATIONS INVOLVED WILL BE SPELLED OUT IN THE CURRENT CONGRESSIONAL CONSIDERATION OF THIS.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 06 STATE 167324

2. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WAS POSTED IN THE DEPARTMENT PRESS OFFICE IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION TAKEN AT THE JULY 18 PRESS BRIEFING:

Q. DID THE STATE DEPARTMENT KNOW THAT TWO CONGRESSMEN, HAMILTON AND OBEY, WERE SEEING ARAFAT?

A. YES. THE CONGRESSMEN MADE THEIR OWN ARRANGEMENTS TO
SEE MR. ARAFAT DURING THE TRIP. AS A COURTESY, THEY
INFORMED THE DEPARTMENT OF THESE ARRANGEMENTS.

VANCE

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TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, OREP, MASS, PDEV, OVIP, US, XF, EG, SA, IR, IS, (VANCE, CYRUS R), (HAMILTON, LEE H), (OBEY, DAVID R), (BEGIN, MENAHEM), (ARAFAT, YASSIR)
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